

POLICY BULLETIN

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

June 16, 2011

GPB 2011-01

TO:

Financial Aid Administrators

FROM:

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SUBJECT: **Cal Grant "Qualifying Institution" Policy Change**

On September 24, 2010, Assembly Bill (AB) 2086 was chaptered into California law. This bill amends Section 69432.7 of the California Education Code which redefines "qualifying institution" for purposes of the Cal Grant Program. This bill requires Cal Grant participating institutions to provide information on where to access California license examination passage rates for graduates of certain undergraduate programs if that data is electronically available through the Internet Web site of a California licensing or regulatory agency. This change became effective January 1, 2011.

Current California Law

Existing California law defines a "qualifying institution" participating in the Cal Grant Program as: 1) a California private or independent postsecondary educational institution that participates in specified federal student aid programs, or 2) a nonprofit institution that is headquartered and operating in California that meets specified criteria, or 3) a California public postsecondary educational institution.

New California Law

AB 2086 (Chapter 248, Statutes of 2010) redefines "qualifying institution" for purposes of the Cal Grant Program to mean an institution that is within any of the categories mentioned above and that complies with a requirement to provide an access point for prospective and current students to view the institution's license examination passage rates. Passage rates provided must be for the most recent available year and be for graduates of its undergraduate programs leading to employment for which passage of a California licensing examination is required. This law does not require institutions to calculate and publish rates, but they must provide a link to the appropriate California licensing or regulatory agency that



does. In addition, the law specifies that institutions are responsible for certifying to the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) compliance with the requirement.

Access to the required published information may include one or more of the following:

- A link(s) on your institution's Web site where enrollment information is located.
- A link(s) on an Internet Web site where centralized admissions information for multiple postsecondary campuses is located.
- A Web address(es) provided on an application for enrollment.
- A Web address(es) provided on other program information distributed to prospective students.

Submission Requirements

As a result of the law change, institutions are required to certify to the Commission that they have provided information on where to access California license examination rates for graduates of specified undergraduate programs if that data is electronically available through the Internet Web site of a California licensing or regulatory agency.

To comply with the law change, please submit at least one of the following to the Commission by **September 1, 2011**:

- A printed copy of your institution's Web site page which contains the specified link(s).
- A printed copy of a centralized enrollment Internet Web site page which contains the specified link(s).
- A copy of the published document(s) which contains the access information to the appropriate California licensing or regulatory agency Web site(s).
- If your institution does not offer undergraduate programs leading to employment for which passage of a state licensing examination is required, please specify this in writing to the Commission by **September 1, 2011**.
- If a qualifying institution offers a specified undergraduate program for which passage of a California licensing examination is required, but the data is not available through a California licensing or regulatory agency's Web site, the institution must notify the Commission of this in writing by **September 1, 2011**.

Mail the required information to:

California Student Aid Commission Program Policy and Development Branch Attention: Shaunda Davis P.O. Box 419028 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9028

If you have any questions regarding this Policy Bulletin, please contact Shaunda Davis at (916) 464-6467 or at sdavis@csac.ca.gov.

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!